

# NEWS OF ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Effect of Continental Army on State Militias Is Storm Center at Present | Social Activities of Posts and Navy Yards Told in Dispatches

"While Chairman Chamberlain, of the Senate Military Committee, will doubtless support the recommendations of the War Department, it is not believed that he is satisfied with the manner in which they are being agreed upon without consulting the General Staff of the army," says the Army and Navy Journal.

"Upon his visit to the White House on Thursday Senator Chamberlain is said to have assured the President he would support any program that would increase the strength of the land forces. He did not go into the details of the program with the President, but will take it up with the Secretary of War in a few days. He expressed the belief that the report of the War College division of the General Staff will be given out in some form before the new legislation is taken up by Congress. He will probably suggest this at his conference with the Secretary of War.

"As I stated in my letter to the Secretary," said Chairman Chamberlain, "Congress should have the expert opinion of the War College and the army. With this before us, Congress can then decide whether it is wise to follow the policy outlined by the War College. I see no reason why this should not be made public, and assume that it will be. I intend to reintroduce my militia pay bill, with certain amendments, and expect it will pass without any serious opposition at the approaching session of Congress. I see no reason why the organization of a continental army should interfere with the strengthening of the National Guard. With the pay bill it appears to me that the militia can be made a dependable force. The continental army will be an experiment, and the country cannot afford to weaken its National Guard by any experiment with a new force of troops. We will need all the trained citizen soldiers that we can obtain through both the National Guard and the proposed continental army. There should be no conflict between the two organizations."

"What will be the attitude of the National Guard toward the administration's army legislative program may be reflected through the national militia board and the executive committee of the National Guard Association. The national militia board is the official organization, and its recommendations will have an official status when they are made to the Secretary of War. The executive committee of the National Guard Association will report to the annual meeting of the association, which is to be held at San Francisco next month.

"Disquieting reports have reached the National Guard which make the organized militia apprehensive as to the effect that the creation of a continental army will have upon the State troops. While they are in the city the National Guard officers will probably ask the Secretary for a definite statement as to the status of the militia under the new policy of the department. National Guard officers have declared that they are not opposed to the creation of the continental army providing that it does not interfere with the development of the militia.

"Some National Guard officers have advanced a plan for Federalizing the militia and making it a nucleus for a continental army. They insist that there should be only two forces maintained in the country, one the regular army, which should be maintained at its present high standard; and the other a force of citizen soldiers, which could be called out as a reserve army for the regular troops. It is not known whether the militia board will take any action upon this vital question, but it is assumed that it will come up for consideration at the meeting of the National Guard Association in San Francisco. The purpose of calling a meeting of the executive committee of the association at Washington at this time is to obtain a definite statement from the Secretary of War, upon which the association can take action when it convenes in San Francisco.

"Assistant Secretary of War Henry R. Breckinridge and Brig. Gen. Albert L. Mills, U. S. A., chief of the Division of Militia Affairs, as representatives of the War Department will attend the National Guard meeting. This will probably be the most important meeting in the history of the association and is apt to have a very important influence on the legislation to be enacted at the next session of Congress. The Assistant Secretary of War will probably urge the association to endorse the plan of the department for the organization of a continental army. This will be coupled with an endorsement of the militia pay bill, and an effort will be made to line up the National Guard behind the entire program of the War Department.

"The session is apt to be a stormy one, as the National Guard officers are by no means of one opinion as to what legislation should be enacted. Recently there has been a growing sentiment in favor of compulsory military training among National Guardsmen. A resolution of this character will probably be introduced and will have some strong supporters. In some quarters it is believed that it will be passed.

"The General Staff of the army, and as far as that is concerned practically every officer in the army, favors universal military training. If Congress should ask the General Staff's opinion upon this subject it would receive a strong report in favor of compulsory military training. National Guardsmen who have been considering the militia from a broad national defense standpoint are of the same opinion. Anything short of this is a defiance of expert opinion and a concession to civilian ignorance and prejudice which wholly disregards the plain teaching of current experience on the battlefields of Europe."

## GERMAN GAS BOMBS CAPTURED BY FRENCH



An interesting picture, the first to reach this country, showing German gas shells, which, upon exploding, distribute the deadly gas which has produced such ghastly effects upon the French, British, and Belgian troops. These shells were collected by the French after they had driven the Germans from a stronghold in the Champagne country.

### Sea and Aerial Supremacy

"As the weeks pass and aerial attacks and defense develop and become more effective and decisive," says the United Service Gazette of London, "it is becoming abundantly clear that if the maximum of efficiency is to be obtained from a certain standard of sea power, then sea power must be closely associated with a high level of aerial efficiency. The nation which would be supreme on the sea must also aspire to supremacy in the air. Fortunately the British admiralty grasped this fact the moment they had been moved to take up the subject of aviation seriously, and the result has been a rapid and successful development of the branch of aviation which is now being called upon to make headway in the development of aerial machines and gain experience by experiment in a way that no other nation except our French allies has either attempted or achieved. No less than ourselves, the French flying men have shown an aptitude for aerial matters which amounts to genius, and there is no longer any dispute as to their aerial ascendancy in every theater in which this terrible struggle is being fought out. Their advancement is so striking and obvious that it is no longer disputed even by the Germans themselves, who do not easily pay tribute to the qualities of their opponents in any field of war activity."

"Of equal importance with the fact that our enemies have grasped and admit our aerial supremacy, it is clear that in the British navy no new branch of a fighting service ever experienced less resistance from retrogressively inclined officers than the Royal Naval Flying Corps has from the moment of its introduction. This is the more surprising and welcome when it is borne in mind that only a few years before the first seaplan appeared the whole weight of the innate distrust of innovations held by a large number of senior naval officers, had been brought to bear against the progress that experts were trying to make in gunnery and scientific fighting apparatus generally, and for the abolition of that standard of efficiency which old fogies believed could only rest with an atmosphere of misapprehension commonly known among gunnery and torpedo men as split and polish."

"The submarine, too, had been scoffed at and derided by those who could scarcely mention them without showing their disgust, and who would never concede that practical fighting could be carried out by hitting below the belt. At every step and turn these old seamen, during a period of brisk evolution at the end of the last and the beginning of the present century brought to bear retrograde and narrow minds on the scientific potentials of a new school of progressive men who were, fortunately for Britain, rapidly waking up a navy which was rearing its supremacy largely on its reputation combined with apathy and somnolence. Happily the old school had lost and the new school had won when air machines first called for attention in the realm of fighting apparatus."

"It is not to be wondered at, therefore, if the progress of overhead fighting machines has been infinitely more rapid, comparatively, than the development of underwater craft proved to be in a previous generation. With the former all hands have tried to help it forward, while in the case of the submarine a large number of officers were decidedly antagonistic, the majority apathetic, and only a few enthusiastic. Nothing could be more fortunate under these circumstances than that, once started, England should early realize that aerial supremacy is the natural and essential concomitant of sea power. It was action founded on this belief that has placed us in our present aerial position, which even France will not resent our calling the foremost in the world."

"The aerial patrols along the coasts and the submarine hunting in the offing and narrow waters are already organized and linked up with marine patrols in such a way as to make them almost a common force, and every month sees some development of the principle that the naval flying corps is a service in itself rather than a branch or arm of a service."

The French understand the possibilities of separate aerial attack as well, if not even better than ourselves and have practiced it continually ever since we initiated attack by aerial squadrons and fleets by sweeping down on German warships at an epoch-making raid directed against Cuxhaven in the early months of the war."

### District Signal Corps

The Signal Corps company's classes in semaphore, heliograph, four-foot flag and buzzer work are progressing rapidly, and indications are that before next camp the outfit will be in shape to handle anything that comes along. Many of the members of the telegraph classes are taking buzzers home in order to practice, and their improvement is quite noticeable.

The company has purchased a talking machine and now is considering the purchase of a pool table. Tuesday night will be the time for the annual election of officers, and it is expected the entire company will turn out.

Master Signal Electrician Lansford is busy transferring the radio set to the L Street Armory, for exhibition purposes at the military tournament to be held there in February.

First Sergt. Winters has been appointed a special officer, with jurisdiction in the Armory. So far he has not been obliged to exercise his authority as the size and glitter of his new badge have overawed all would-be law breakers.

Last Tuesday night chiefs of sections were handed a list of questions, to be answered in writing next Tuesday night. These questions pertain to the handling and equipment of their sections, and are designed to bring out their knowledge of their duties. It is the intention of Capt. Terry to have the "non-coms" take a regular correspondence course this winter.

Attendance at drill has been somewhat slack during the past few weeks, and if absentees are not more careful, some surprises in the shape of summary courts-martial will be handed out.

### Study Lead Poisoning

The commandant of the Boston navy yard has approved the publication of a sanitary bulletin by the medical officer of that station. Medical Inspector N. J. Blackwood, U. S. N. This bulletin will contain current information on sanitary and hygienic matters which will be of use to the medical officers of visiting ships and purveyors of food and milk to those living in the yard as well as the messes on the ships.

Inasmuch as lead poisoning has been classed among the injuries for which compensation must be paid by the government, and in view of the fact that nearly all workers in lead suffer from this condition at one time or another in the course of their occupation, it was deemed advisable and no more than right that the government should be protected to the extent of knowing whether a man was or was not suffering from this condition before he was employed in the yard.

Upon the suggestion of the medical officer of the yard the commandant therefore ordered that all lead workers now employed and all applicants for work in the future should be examined for chronic lead poisoning. This is now being carried out, and examinations are now made of blood, gums, reflexes, and any other signs which may indicate the presence of lead in the system.

### No More Cold Storage

Upon the recommendation of the naval general board it has been decided to establish no more magazine refrigeration on board vessels of the navy. This decision will not apply to the Oklahoma and Nevada, but will

affect the later battleships. The manufacture of powder for the navy has now reached the state that it does not require the protection which has been given by the installation of what amounts to a cold-storage condition.

In addition to this development of ammunition, there has been an extension in the use of electrical auxiliaries by which it is now possible to make less use of communicating steam pipes, which have hitherto, necessarily, been placed in close proximity to the magazines on board ship. This influence upon the temperature of the magazines rendered it imperative that there should be installed a system of refrigeration in order that the contents of the magazines might be kept at a desirably low and uniform temperature. The new conditions make it possible to discontinue the installation of the refrigerating system so far as it is needed to affect the temperature of magazines. There will be, consequently, a corresponding saving of weight.

### Would Protect Divers

The frequent necessity for diving in recovering torpedoes from varying depths of water within present ranges has suggested to some of the naval surgeons the desirability that much more attention be paid to this important subject than has hitherto been given to it. It is believed that the training of personnel in this subject is deplorably inadequate, and that unnecessary fatality is apt to result from ignorance or disregard of the elementary principles of physics involved.

The knowledge that man has descended to thirty-five or more fathoms without appreciable injury has emboldened some who, with the confidence born of ignorance, do not hesitate to send a diver down without previous physical examination of the diver, without test of the pump, to insure the delivery of a volume of

air necessary to sustain life at the depth and under the pressure that the work is to be done, without knowledge or realization of conditions causing "squeeze," and without appreciation of the necessity of decompression at a rate proportionate to the submergence and depths of descent. It is believed that the relatively infrequent casualties to divers in the navy in the past have been due more to good fortune and shoal water than to appreciation of conditions of pressure and skillful use of tested apparatus of known efficiency.

### West Point Notes

West Point, N. Y., Oct. 30.—Arthur Yager, governor of Porto Rico, arrived recently and was given a salute of seventeen guns. Gov. and Mrs. Yager and Miss Yager were guests of Col. and Mrs. Willis for the weekend. On Saturday Col. and Mrs. Wilcox entertained with two dinners for their guests, one in honor of Gov. and Mrs. Yager and the other at their home for Miss Yager.

Asked to meet Gov. and Mrs. Yager at dinner were Col. and Mrs. Yager, Townsley, Gordon, Stuart, Mrs. O. Hunt, Maj. L. L. Hunt, of Washington; Capt. and Mrs. Carter, Capt. and Mrs. Rogers, and Lieut. and Mrs. Householder.

Mrs. H. Randall Webb chaperoned the dinner given for Miss Yager, other guests being Miss Webb, Miss Shaw, Miss Alma Louise Hodges, Cadets Schofield, James, Kuhn, Mallory, Gordon, and Heister.

Col. Townsley and Maj. Timberlake spent a couple of days in Washington last week.

Mr. Santos-Dumont, the aviator; Mr. Henry Wise Wood, Col. W. R. Livermore, of Catskill, and Maj. Hunt, of Washington, were recent visitors.

### Army and Navy Jottings

In a report received at the Navy Department concerning the observations of an officer attached to one of the battleships, the following comment is made: "When weather conditions permit, it is desirable to have as many as possible sleep on deck under awnings or well protected from dampness. Sleeping in the open air is preferred to any compartment, no matter how good the artificial ventilation. Members of the engineer force are, as a rule, more free from disease than the rest of the crew, despite the fact that they are on deck very little. This is attributed to the fact that they have a good air supply while working and more especially to the fact that their work calls for one or two daily baths."

"Men are prone to 'shake down' on deck instead of with hammocks swinging, and in cold weather this leads to colds and localities. The ship is a habitation, especially on the third or berth deck, and the compartments below are far from perfect and many men from their work have little access to the fresh air. Many faults in ventilation will always exist on board a battleship, and the most important thing is to make the most of the facilities presented by the gradual ventilation of the men in the navy in the simple rules of hygiene in order to avoid preventable diseases."

Several organizations at Texas City rented by the month pool tables which were lost in the hurricane of August 16. The rental exchange, the Sixth Cavalry, the machine gun platoon, the Twenty-seventh Infantry, and Company E of the Twenty-seventh Infantry were among the organizations renting pool tables at fixed rates per month. Two of the tables were destroyed and swept away and never recovered. Still another table was gravely damaged by water, but was removed from the wreckage resulting from the storm. The owner of the tables sought to recover the amount of his losses from the various organizations, but the War Department has decided that the damage was the result of an inevitable accident, and the owner was unable to establish the fact that the organizations had undertaken to insure the tables. It is held, therefore, that he has no legal claim on account of the loss.

The Paymaster General of the navy is to be known in the future, during the incumbency of the present official, by the simple title of "Mr. McGowan." That democratic office on a recent official weekly inspection was addressed by the following titles: "Admiral," "General," "Paymaster," and "Chief," not to mention more personal names by his intimate acquaintances.

An official order has been issued which sets forth this situation and contains the following suggestion: "Therefore, I should be much gratified if there might from this time forward

be uniform observance of the following notice issued to (and initiated by) all officers and others shortly after I came here in July, 1914: As 'Paymaster General' is a long and somewhat cumbersome term by which to address anybody orally, I shall particularly appreciate if you will please call me 'Mr. McGowan.'"

The olive-drab cotton cloth received from the United States for troops in the Philippine Islands for the manufacture of Philippine scout uniforms is reported as being somewhat in shade. The local manufacture of scout uniforms at Manila looking toward the securing of a suitable dye for the stock of khaki clothing in the hands of troops in the islands in order to bring it all to a standard color. It is believed that a suitable dye has been secured, and recommendations have been made for obtaining the necessary authority to have this clothing dyed. This is considered especially desirable, as the lack of uniformity in the color of the cotton service uniform issued in the Philippines is the subject of much criticism.

### Annapolis Notes

Annapolis, Md., Oct. 30.—With the official reception of Mrs. E. W. Eberle, wife of Supt. Eberle, of the Naval Academy, and of Mrs. Louis M. Nulton, wife of Commandant of Midshipmen Nulton, and with the midshipmen's hops and the dance at the academy on Saturday afternoon, the academic salutory festivities and society entertainments have been inaugurated.

Mrs. Eberle held her second official reception at the superintendent's quarters Wednesday afternoon. She was assisted by Mrs. James G. Field, wife of Medical Director Field, U. S. N., and Mrs. George W. Laws, wife of Commander Laws, U. S. N. The young ladies aiding in the function were Miss Edith McCormick, daughter of Medical Director A. D. M. McCormick, U. S. N.; the Misses Christy, the daughters of Commander H. H. Christy, U. S. N.; and Miss Ramsey, the daughter of Pay Inspector Martin M. Ramsey, U. S. N.

Mrs. Wilbur R. Van Auker, wife of Lieut. Van Auker, U. S. N., will spend the winter here at the Peggy Stewart Inn. Lieutenant Commander J. O. Richardson, U. S. N., and Mrs. Richardson are visiting Lieut. R. C. Parker, U. S. N., and Mrs. Parker.

Action taken by the three upper classes of midshipmen insures that having is at an end at the Naval Academy, according to the statements of officials of those classes. The midshipmen have decided, with practical unanimity, that the time has come when having should cease at the institution, and they state that having has now actually stopped.

The having system sprung up at the academy about twenty years ago, according to the local tradition, and has except for short intervals, been actively practiced ever since.

As the result of a recent investigation seven midshipmen were dismissed and about twenty-five others severely punished for acts of having.

It is understood that no formal resolution was passed, but that the midshipmen acted in such a way as to make it clear that a midshipman who had henceforth would be going against the deliberate sentiment of the student body action taken by their displeasure.

The midshipmen were anxious that their action should not be made public, but admitted tonight that it had been taken.

The authorities of the academy are greatly pleased by the good work which exists among the midshipmen, the absence of class antipathies, and the evident desire of the midshipmen to maintain discipline and high ideals at the academy.

### Fort Myer Notes

Fort Myer, Va., Oct. 30.—Capt. Morris E. Locke has left for San Antonio and will later be stationed in San Francisco as adjt. Gen. J. Franklin Bell.

Mrs. Connell, wife of William M. Connell, has returned from New York.

An informal hop recently was held at the Officers' Club.

Lieut. Homer M. Groninger and Troop K will leave next week to participate in the Madison Square Horse Show.

Mrs. William D. Forsyth has returned after visiting her mother, Mrs. Dockery, of New Jersey.

Mrs. D. H. Scott has as her guest her mother, Mrs. McCallan, of St. Louis.

Capt. Duncan Elliott entertained at dinner on Tuesday.

Mrs. Robert M. Barton gave a supper recently for the young people of the post.

Dr. and Mrs. Clemens W. McMillan were luncheon guests at the Chevy Chase Club.

Maj. and Mrs. Manua McCloskey had dinner recently for Maj. and Mrs. Charles P. Summerville and Maj. James F. Hall.

Gen. and Mrs. Hugh L. Scott have visiting them their son, Mr. Merrill Scott, who has just returned from Mexico.

Enthusiasts from the post who attended the ride held in Rock Creek Park Sunday included Maj. Manua McCloskey, Capt. Elliot and Forchert, Dr. G. E. Griffin, Mrs. Forchert, Mrs. Stella Taucher, Miss O'Keefe, Lieut. and Mrs. Thurber and Lieut. and Mrs. Parker.

Mrs. W. C. Helmers and small daughter, who have been visiting Chaplain Timothy D. O'Keefe, left recently for their home in Kansas City, Mo.

A special drill was given last week for the postmasters and postmistresses who attended the convention held in Washington.

Capt. Charles S. Haight will take his splendid jumping horse to the Madison Square Horse Show.

### Norfolk Navy Yard

Norfolk, Va., Oct. 30.—Mrs. Mark L. Bristol and Mrs. Reginald F. Nicholson, guests of Admiral and Mrs. Frank E. Beatty, have returned to Washington.

Mrs. John A. Le Jeune and Miss Ellis Le Jeune, guests of Mrs. Claude Murdaugh, Portsmouth, have returned to their home in Washington, D. C.

Miss Janet Crose, of Brookline, Mass., is the guest of Miss Anne Foster, Portsmouth.

Miss Jean Jervey left recently to spend two weeks at West Point and later visit friends in New York and Washington.

Miss Meta Wiggs, guest of her cousin, Maj. Pierce Stevens, U. S. A., near Washington, D. C., has returned to Portsmouth.

Mrs. L. W. Clark, of Washington, is the guest of Miss Virginia Lynch, Lieut. and Mrs. Paul A. Spron will soon leave for Fort Royal, S. C., for station.

Ensign and Mrs. Justin McC. Miller and little son have left Portsmouth for Washington.

## WITH THE ITALIANS IN THE MOUNTAINS



The picture shows an Italian machine gun squad holding one of the strategical positions in the Alps. With a rapid-fire gun of this sort in one of the mountain passes it is almost impossible for an enemy to dislodge the defenders of the position.